

Wage talks collapse

by Peter Michalyshyn

The academic and non-academic staff at the U of A have broken off salary negotiations with the university administration and will go to arbitration to settle their differences.

The main difference between both staff associations and the university is money: the faculty asked for a 15 percent salary increase, but was offered only 10 percent; the non-academic staff asked for a 20 percent wage raise but were offered only 6.14 to 8.5 percent increases from the Board of Governors negotiating team.

Neither the academics nor the non-academics can strike legally. The AASUA is not a certified union; NASA is certified, but cannot strike because the non-academics are indirect government employees. As such they fall under Bill 41, the law that outlaws strikes among provincial government employees.

The Association of Academic Staff (AASUA) is concerned that further erosion of faculty salaries will make it increasingly difficult to draw top scholars to the U of A.

"Recruitment is becoming more and more difficult," according to AASUA president Dr. V.G. Gourishankar.

"We're going to lose a whole generation of scholars because potential graduate students are no longer looking at academic careers," he says.

By 1990 thousands of academics will be retiring, says Gourishankar, and because of the huge disparity between public and private sector salaries is drawing people away from universities, personnel won't be there to fill the empty spaces.

He even speculated that we might experience a replay of the 1960's when there was massive transportation of scholars, mainly from the U.S., but also from Europe, because no qualified Canadians were available to fill positions in Canada's growing universities.

And yet, what the AASUA wants for its "modest request" of 15 percent is just the maintenance of real income in 1979 dollars. Present salaries are: \$36,370 for full professors; \$27,625 for associate professors; \$21,269 for assistant professors; and \$16,637 for lecturers. Yet U of A faculty are among the top five best paid in Canada, according to AASUA executive secretary Gord Unger.

The Non-Academic Staff Association isn't being so modest, asking for enough of a wage raise to reach parity with salaries paid outside the university community.

George Walker of NASA says its members are no longer prepared to accept inferior wages because of insufficient government funding of the university.

But arbitration was imminent from the beginning of money negotiations when the university made it clear that "it wasn't prepared to negotiate on the basis of reaching parity with the public sector in the rest of Edmonton,"

U hindered by gov't intransigence

While the university has a "no comment" attitude toward its yearly contract negotiations with its staff, president Myer Horowitz did reflect on the problems from the administration's point of view.

Horowitz repeated his disappointment with the department of Advanced Education and Manpower for not telling the university administration the amount of its operating grant in time for the March 31 university budget deadline.

In the past, the government grant, which makes up about 89 percent of the university's total budget, has come only after the budget deadline, meaning the university must guess how much

money it's got to work with in the following year.

"To carry out meaningful negotiations (with staff associations) without knowing what the story is for the next year is very difficult," Horowitz says.

In their first budget submission to the government last August, the university went into great detail about the wage discrepancies for its employees, Horowitz says, adding that those discrepancies are repeatedly forwarded in the administration's attempts to lobby the government for greater funding.

However, Horowitz maintains that "I simply don't know" how much the government grant will be or when it will come through.

Tenants unhappy about subsidization

HUB rent out of line: tenants

by Mike Walker

HUB tenants will pay substantially more per square foot for their apartments than do tenants in privately-run buildings in the university area if rent increases are approved by the Board of Governors tomorrow, according to a survey conducted by the HUB Tenants' Association (HTA).

At the same time, HUB tenants are subsidizing other money-losing housing units such as Lister Hall about \$180,000 this year, according to Deirdre Ah Shene, HTA president.

"It's appalling that we're paying higher prices," Ah Shene

said yesterday.

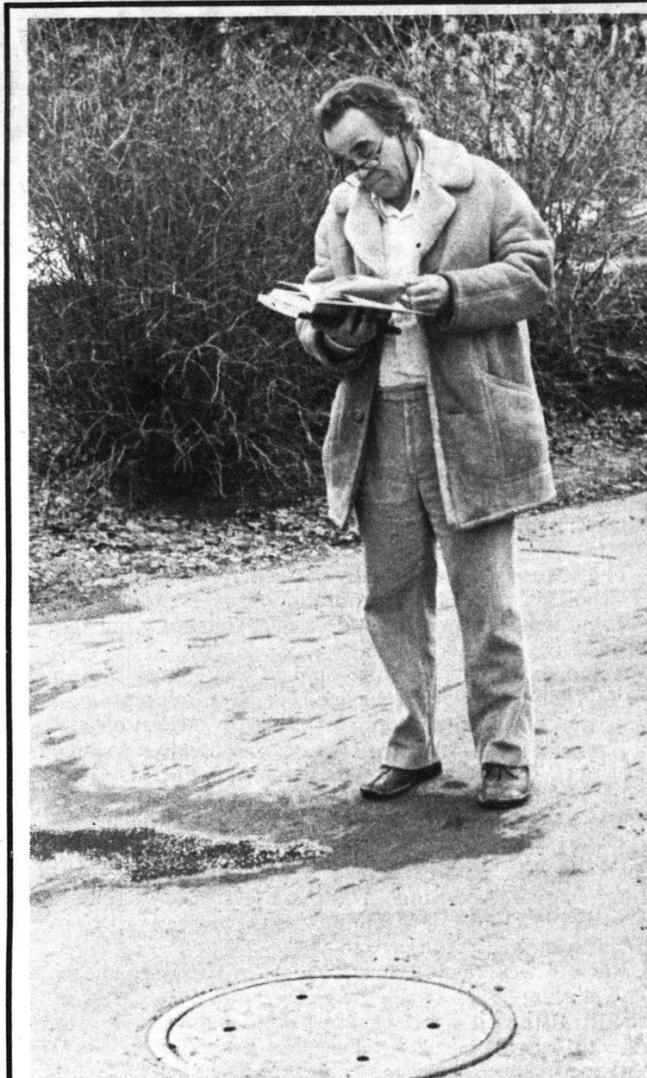
The HTA survey encompassed Campus Towers, Garneau Towers, and College Plaza.

"Except for the one bedroom apartments at Campus Towers," Ah Shene said, "the rents per square foot are all lower than in HUB."

Rents per square foot in the various buildings are as follows, according to HTA figures:

	1 br.	2 br.
HUB (with increases)	61¢	61¢
Campus Towers	63-68¢	52-55¢
Garneau Towers	50¢	44¢
College Plaza	49-50¢	52-53¢

Housing and Food Services (HFS) director Gail Brown refused to comment on HTA's figures.



We admire this man's scholarship. What was that you said about post-Reading-Week blahs?

Photo Bill Ingler

Baz by Skeet



Squibs

by Spike Milligram

From an ad announcing topics of discussion on upcoming programs of Ron Collister's "talk back"

Healing for the Age of Enlightenment — Lecturer, Consultant William Finley will discuss practical methods of healing through diet, vitaflex and color.

From the "Learning is Living" supplement to the *Edmonton Journal*, in the section outlining the superior wisdom on tap at the U of A:

Retraining Your Breathing For A Better Lifestyle

Proper breathing can lead to greater effectiveness and productivity in work and personal life.

From The "Lineup" newsletter of Grant MacEwan College, another institution training the leaders of tomorrow, come other courses:

Tummy Trimmers
Aquarian Age Consciousness
Making the Media Work for You

There is no corresponding course for journalists on how to keep publicity agents from exercising undue influence on the media.

Numerologists, however, will be happy to note that the Faculty of Voodoo offers seven courses in the occult sciences. As to numerology itself, the college makes the following claim:

Numerology can help in choosing a career or even improving your personality.

The NEW new Math, as formulated by William F. Buckley in the *National Review* Jan. 23, 1981:

Milton Friedman stakes his considerable reputation on the proposition that if all taxes were reduced to a top level of 25 percent the revenues of the government would in fact increase.

... if Friedman is right, and logic is on his side, the reform could have wonderful repercussions.

Coda, by H.L. Mencken, from *Minority Report*:

The only way that democracy can be made bearable is by developing and cherishing a class of men sufficiently honest and disinterested to challenge the prevailing quacks. No such class has ever appeared in strength in the United States. Thus the business of harassing the quacks devolves upon the newspapers. When they fail in their duty, which is usually, we are at the quacks' mercy.